(b) to (d) Health being a State subject, it is for the State Government concerned to consider setting up of such hospitals in their States.

Identification of Virus Route of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

3752. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the source and virus route of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) or bird flu of the year 2006 have been identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the preventive measures taken against HPAI and the virus H5N1, as on today;

(d) the existing facilities and steps taken to increase the facilities for identifying and controlling HPAI in various States, State-wise and category-wise as on today; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent the outbreak of Avian influenza in humans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The Department of Animal Husbandary, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Director General Indian Council of Medical Research to investigate the source of and virus route of bird flu in India during the year 2006. The Committee has formulated micro plan activities to be undertaken for detecting the source.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had taken a number of preparedness measures which included monitoring by an inter ministerial group, national consultation and preparation of contingency plan which had been circulated to all States and districts, stockpiling of oseltamivir [Tamiflu] and personal protective equipments, training of State level rapid response teams etc.

The contingency plans of Department of Animal Husbandry and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare were put into operation immediately on notification of Avian Flu. These actions included declaration of infected area of 0-3 Kms. and surveillance areas upto 10 Kms. from the infected village respectively, culling of affected poultry in these areas followed by proper disposal and burial of the dead birds.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India deputed its Rapid Response Teams to the effected areas to assist the State health authorities in carrying out active house to house surveillance to identify suspected cases among human contacts of infected poultry. All those reported to have symptoms of even upper respiratory tract infections and fever were isolated and kept under observation following strict infection control practices. For such purpose hospitals were identified near the affected area and strengthened in terms of creation of isolation ward and critical care support.

Adequate quantity of Oseltamivir and personal protective equipments were made available to the affected States.

Till date no human cases of Avian Flu has been reported.

Department of Animal Husbandry is conducting active surveillance in an axis of 200 Kms. in and around the effected areas. Since reporting of the last case on 18.4.2006 no fresh case of bird flu has been detected from the samples so far tested. Ministry of Environment and Forests is also keeping a strict vigil on wild life sanctuaries.

The coordinated action taken by the concerned Ministries/Departments and the State Governments has brought the situation under control. The situation is being closely monitored by the Government.

Spreading of Chikungunya disease in various States

3753. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a dengue like fever-Chikungunya has again surfaced in some parts of the country namely Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra during the period December, 2005 to February, 2006;

(b) if so, the number of persons reported to have been affected by the disease so far, State-wise;